

Operator Training

Releases

D H E C



PROMOTE



PROTECT



PROSPER

South Carolina Department of Health
and Environmental Control

Responding to Releases

A Release is defined as any:

- Spilling
- Leaking
- Emitting
- Discharging
- Escaping
- Leaching
- Disposing

...from an underground storage tank into groundwater, surface water or soil

Suspected Releases

A suspected release means there are signs that a release may have occurred but further investigation is needed to provide evidence of the release. These signs may include:

1. Discovery by anyone of released fuel at the UST site or in the surrounding area,
2. Unusual operating conditions of equipment, and/or
3. Release detection results that indicate a release may have occurred

The following pages will provide more detail on these situations.

1. Released fuel at the UST or in the surrounding area:

- Puddle of fuel on the ground
- Stained soil
- Fuel slick on top of a body of water
- Fuel smell in a sewer, a basement or utility lines

2. Unusual operating conditions of equipment:

- “Slow-flow” at the dispensers
- Sudden loss of fuel or water from the tank
- Sudden increase of fuel or water in the tank
- High water alarm on an Automatic Tank Gauge
- Pump shut down by an Electronic Line Leak Detector

Failing ATG slip

***** END *****

Failing SIR report

Ways to Investigate

If one of the suspected release conditions is found, further investigation by the owner and/or operator is needed immediately to prove whether or not a release has actually occurred:

Ways to Investigate

- Owners and operators must conduct tank tightness tests and/or line tightness tests to determine if a leak exists

OR

- Owners and operators must perform a site check (soil or water sample) and measure for the presence of a release where contamination is most likely to be present at the UST site

EZY 3 LOCATOR PLUS		FINAL REPORT
MANUFACTURED BY: ESTABROOK INC. 1-877-368-7215		
DATE: 8/9/2008	PIS # (NEW YORK):	
TOTAL TANK VOL: 80000	TANK # 1	
PRODUCT VOL:	LOCATION:	
ULLAGE VOL:		
PRODUCT TYPE: Regular		
THE ACOUSTIC CHARACTERISTIC OF A LEAK REVEALS:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TIGHT TANK THIS UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK PASSES THE CRITERIA SET FORTH BY THE U.S. EPA.		
<input type="checkbox"/> ULLAGE (DRY) PORTION LEAK THIS UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK FAILS THE CRITERIA SET FORTH BY THE U.S. EPA.		
<input type="checkbox"/> BELOW PRODUCT LEVEL (WET) PORTION LEAK THIS UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK FAILS THE CRITERIA SET FORTH BY THE U.S. EPA.		
WATER SENSOR INDICATES: (CHECK ONLY ONE)		
NO WATER INTRUSION <input type="checkbox"/> WATER INTRUSION <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Operator Information:		
Print Name:		Certification #:
Sign Name:		Expiration Date:
Testing Firm:		Telephone #:
Address:		
NEW YORK STATE REQUIREMENT: A DIAGRAM OF THE TANK SYSTEM MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE STATE WITH THIS REPORT.		
Rev: 04/2001		



If at any point the investigation
determines that a release did in fact
occur,

**Call the Department
within 72 hours.**

(803) 896-7957



Definition of an Emergency

- Situation that requires immediate action to protect human health and/or the environment (fuel on the ground, fuel flowing on the ground, fuel spraying from a dispenser)
- Alarms caused by spills or releases from an underground storage tank system
- Significant release of fuel aboveground or a fire related to fuel (fiery fuel gushing from where a dispenser was a moment ago)

How to Respond to Emergencies Caused by a Open Release (ongoing)

- If there is a fire, call 911 first
- If there is NO fire, attempt to first stop the release
- Control the release
- Call 911
- Call DHEC Emergency Response, 1-888-481-0125
- Call your office or boss
- Control traffic and people to minimize danger
- Clean-up and investigate the release (abatement)
- Call DHEC Division of UST Management within 72 hours, 803-896-7957

1. Stop the release

(Stop the flow of fuel into the environment)

Cut power to the submersible pumps – Hit the Emergency Stop button or breaker for pumps

If a delivery is overfilling a tank, tell the delivery driver to turn off control valves on the side of the tanker

2. Control the Release

When the scene is determined to be safe, use a spill kit, kitty litter, absorbent pads, sand bags, and/or dirt to keep the spill from leaving the property, going into a storm drain, or on the grass.



3. CALL 911!

(Request fire, police, and medical as needed)



4. Call DHEC Emergency Response

1-888-481-0125



Abate the Release

After the excitement dies down, there are several steps that the owner and/or operator must take to minimize damage to the environment. These actions are called abatement.

- Pump out the tanks to a point that no more fuel can leave the tank system
- Make sure that any released fuel stays where it is and does not cause more contamination
- Monitor and control any fire or safety hazards
- Contain contaminated soils to prevent them from washing away
- Perform a site check (soil or water samples) to determine the damage caused by the release
- Investigate to determine the cause of the release and whether this situation can be prevented in the future

Responding to Releases

Always pay very close attention to all aspects of the underground storage tank system. Fuel can be released during a delivery, while a car is fueling, any time of day or night. Pay attention to all alarms both visual and audible. If a release does occur, it should be caught quickly enough to minimize the amount of damage caused.

